

CARTER COURIER

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MARCH 15, 2007

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LETTER FROM THE CONGRESSMAN

Dear Friends,

Next week will mark the fourth anniversary of our nation fighting the War on Terror in Iraq. We entered this conflict to eradicate extremism in the Middle East in order to protect our country from a growing terrorist threat. Now that the battle for Baghdad is in motion, we must do everything we can to aid our troops' success. Now is not the time to withdraw our troops from Iraq or micromanage them from the Speaker's suite in the Capitol building, as House Democrats have proposed. If our forces were to retreat from Iraq now, before it is secure, it will give terrorists a safe haven to launch attacks against others in the region, and soon enough, America. We have not yet completed our mission in Iraq, and we should remain committed to meeting our goal without tying the hands of our troops and withdrawing arbitrarily.

Instead of focusing on completing our mission, House Democrats are busy sneaking pork projects through the House in order to gain support for their "slow bleed" scheme included in the emergency war funding bill. The Democrat leadership will include more than \$20 billion for funding domestic projects with no relevance to our mission in Iraq in this supplemental. This move appears to be nothing more than an attempt to buy votes at the expense of our soldiers and the war against Terror.

The spending bill is meant to be an emergency troop funding vehicle; there is no excuse for attaching \$20 billion in unrelated projects to an emergency law for our troops. We should all encourage the House Democrat leadership to respect the purpose of the emergency spending bill, and in turn, our troops.

Until next week,

NEW VET CENTER COMING TO KILLEEN

I received word in my office this week that the Department of Veterans Affairs' is planning on opening a new vet center in Killeen in 2008. The vet center program provides readjustment counseling and outreach services to combat veterans. The Killeen facility will be one of 23 new centers to open across the nation in the next two years.

Vet centers are one of many important services offered by VA for veterans returning from combat. The decision to place one of these new centers in Killeen is a blessing to Central Texas, given the presence of Fort Hood and the large surrounding military community. Many veterans will benefit from this facility as they recover from the stress of warfare.

The community-based centers provide mental health, employment, family, education, bereavement and outreach services to

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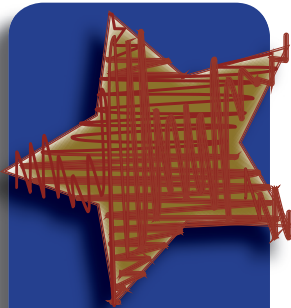
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combat veterans and their families. Small teams of counselors, outreach specialists and other specialists staff the facilities. Many of the staff are combat veterans themselves.

Today, all veterans who served in combat are eligible for care at a VA vet center at no cost, as are their families for military-related issues. Families of service members who die in active duty are also eligible.

STAFF TO HOST CONSTITUENT SERVICE HOURS IN CORYELL AND MILAM COUNTIES

I am proud to announce that a representative from my office will hold office hours in Coryell and Milam County on March 20, 26 and 27. The representative will meet with residents to listen to their concerns and provide assistance with federal agencies and issues, including social security, veterans' affairs, citizenship and immigration. Details follow:

March 20, 2007

9:00 - 11:30am
Rockdale City Hall - Council Chamber Room
505 W. Cameron Ave.
Rockdale, TX, 76567

You may use the Council Room entrance at the rear of the building or come through City Hall.

March 26, 2007

9:30am - 12:00pm
Bea's Kitchen
101 E. Main Street
Cameron, TX 76520

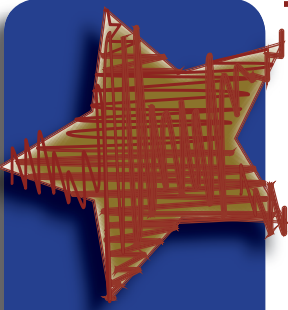
March 27, 2007

8:30 - 11:30 am
Copperas Cove Chamber of Commerce - Conference Room
204 E. Robertson Avenue
Copperas Cove, TX, 76522

LISTEN TO MY WEEKLY RADIO ADDRESS

Please click on the link below to listen to my most recent weekly radio address that was sent to local radio and television stations. This installment covers my continued support for the war in Iraq and the need to fully fund our servicemen and women. You can also see my most recent address to the House of Representatives regarding emergency funding for the war in Iraq.

<http://carter.house.gov/multimedia/>



TEXAS RECEIVES EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GRANT

Last week I was pleased to announce that Texas will receive over \$10 million from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for the 2007 Emergency Management Performance Grants Program (EMPG).

I am thrilled that DHS has taken such an active role in preparing state and local governments to respond to emergencies. Emergency preparedness is the first step in effectively thwarting terrorist activity and properly reacting in the aftermath of disasters.

Part of a larger coordinated effort to strengthen our nation's overall level of preparedness, EMPG helps enhance the effectiveness of State and local emergency management programs. EMPG encourages the improvement of mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery capabilities to prevent, protect against, respond to and recover from major disasters, terrorist attacks and other emergencies. Emphasis is placed on catastrophic planning priorities.

The 2007 EMPG provides \$194,000,000 for State emergency management agencies. Texas will receive \$10,096,516 of this, the second largest allocation for any of the states.

CONDITIONS AT TEXAS' MILITARY MEDICAL CENTERS

I had the distinct honor of meeting some of Texas' finest injured veterans this weekend at Fort Hood's Darnall Army Medical Center and the Olin E. Teague Veterans' Center in Temple. The dedicated employees of these facilities opened their doors to me so that I could inspect their operations. I was concerned about how these centers were being run in the wake of a story in the Washington Post detailing substandard conditions at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC.

Having Fort Hood and a large military community in my district, I understand how important it is to address the recent concerns about Walter Reed and other military hospitals. The reports of substandard conditions at Walter Reed greatly disturb me. It is greatly demoralizing for our troops. In exchange for our soldiers' bravery, we owe them the highest quality medical care when they are wounded defending our freedom.

I asked the directors of these centers not to give me the VIP tour. I wanted to see what problems they have so that we can start to address them and make the recovery process for our veterans as comfortable as possible. I am pleased to say that the facilities I saw, and most others like them, are doing everything possible to provide quality care, services, and accommodations to our soldiers. The feedback from the patients was positive; they are receiving the care they need. We are very fortunate to have two such high-caliber facilities in Central Texas.

However, some veterans' hospitals do have problems that need to be fixed. Our troops deserve the best and we will be working to get the facts on what went wrong. We will not rest until our troops are assured they will receive the medical treatment they need and deserve.

During my tour at Darnall I saw their Emergency Department, Medical Hold Over Barracks, Medical Hold Barracks and Rough Rider Village. At the Veterans' Center, I was shown their Nursing Home Unit, Intensive Care Unit, Day Procedure Treatment Area, Primary Care Unit, Emergency Room and the Domiciliary.
